

CIVILIAN CLIMATE



CORPS

Praise for Civilian Climate Corps Letter

Jackie Ostfeld, Sierra Club's 'Outdoors for All' campaign Director:

“A Civilian Climate Corps updated for the 21st-century is an ideal way to develop the sustainable and just solutions we need to stop the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, and the damage to our public lands and waters. An ambitious CCC is essential to launching a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that creates family-sustaining jobs for a diverse group of young people. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to do the work necessary to protect our communities from the worst effects of climate change, protect our public lands and waters, and ensure that all people can benefit from a healthier planet.”

Elizabeth Gore, Senior Vice President for Political Affairs, Environmental Defense Fund:

“Fighting climate change, building resilience in our communities and creating jobs are all essential to America’s future. Congress must create a Civilian Climate Corps to support real, practical solutions to climate impacts in communities around the country. The CCC will be strongest if it has a diverse membership that is focused on investments in the frontline communities that already face the worst impacts of climate change. EDF thanks Reps. Neguse, Chu, Panetta, Ocasio-Cortez, Rush, and Kaptur as well as Senators Wyden, Coons, and Markey for their leadership in seeking to advance a Civilian Climate Corps that would create jobs, center equity and prepare our communities for the impacts of climate change.”

Teresa Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition:

“The Civilian Climate Corps is a chance to build back better, by creating jobs, increasing land and water stewardship, and supporting local economies all along the Continental Divide who depend on healthy forest, waterways, and trails, not only for their public health, but for their economic vitality. The future of the Divide depends on creating the next generation of stewards who will ensure our most cherished places, like the Continental Divide Trail, remain healthy and accessible long into the future. Full funding of the CCC’s would be a direct investment in communities that are facing the stark realities of the climate crisis, and CDTC looks forward to working with our partners and trail communities to make the most of this historic opportunity.”

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John Wallin, Deputy Director, Conservation Lands Foundation:

“Conservation Lands Foundation supports the Civilian Climate Corps because America needs to prioritize environmental justice and strengthen our climate resiliency. The Corps will make bold investments in conservation and restoration that address environmental justice and climate resiliency and benefit local communities. We applaud Rep. Neguse for his leadership in this effort and call on House and Senate leadership to include the Civilian Climate Corps in the upcoming budget reconciliation package.”

Kristen Bennett, Chief Strategy Officer at Service Year Alliance:

“Establishing a bold Civilian Climate Corps that helps communities across the country deal with the impacts of climate change while putting young people on pathways to good-paying jobs has the potential to transform our nation and our future. The vision laid out in this letter to increase the living allowance and benefits and incorporate workforce development into the ready-made infrastructure of AmeriCorps, as well as support important Department of Labor efforts, would transform national service, putting us on a path to making it an expectation and opportunity for all young people.”

Varshini Prakash, Executive Director, Sunrise Movement:

“We emerged from an apocalyptic global pandemic only to be pulled into a summer of deadly heat waves and destructive storms. Communities across the US are in crisis, with most of us just wanting a decent life with good-paying jobs to rebuild our communities and stop the climate crisis. Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer have a historic, narrow window to deliver jobs and climate justice for us through a Civilian Climate Corps (CCC). We built the political mandate for this to pass. Now, they’ll either heed the call and fight for and pass a bold CCC, or they will abandon our generation and leave us to the throes of the climate crisis.”

Seth Ehrlich, Executive Director, SOS Outreach:

“The CCC is a significant opportunity to provide proactive outdoor stewardship that will ensure public lands are available for generations to come. We are honored to be a part of this movement and to share in the vision of a more inclusive outdoor community.”

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Elvis Cordova, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy, National Recreation and Park Association:

“The proposed Civilian Conservation Corps legislation has the potential to solve many of the challenges that we face across the country — from generating local economic development opportunities and developing meaningful workforce development opportunities, to implementing proven conservation practices that help develop climate resilient communities. Congress has a unique opportunity to support innovative infrastructure improvements that will expand equitable outdoor recreation and green spaces at the state and local levels. This program will also create a workforce that will drive the next generation of conservation stewards. As the pandemic illustrated, having access to quality parks and recreation infrastructure is vital for all communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) urges Congress to take bold steps to revitalize the Civilian Conservation Corps to improve local parks across the country.”

Bruce Ward, President Choose Outdoors:

“The benefits of reinstating the CCCs far exceed the work done on the ground. The connections to the land, the development of a strong work ethic, the creation of future conservationists and natural resources professionals cannot be overestimated.”

Theresa Pierno, President and CEO for the National Parks Conservation Association:

“Nearly everything we know and love about our parks is impacted by climate change. Iconic plants and animals are on the brink of extinction, lakes and rivers are drying up, glaciers are melting, beaches are eroding, and historic structures are crumbling. But through innovative and bold solutions like the Civilian Climate Corps, we can help protect our national parks, our communities and the local economies that depend on them. A modern Civilian Climate Corps would be a great first step towards putting people to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, while also helping these treasured places adapt to climate change threats. Congress must take action now to ensure that our national parks are protected for generations to come.”

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Stephanie Meeks, CEO & President, Student Conservation Association:

“The severe heat, drought, and fires across the American west, as well as the ongoing challenges our young people face in securing employment and environmental justice, compel us to act now. And by harnessing the power of proven service programs nationwide, the Civilian Climate Corps will deliver immediate and effective relief to our nation, from public lands to urban communities.”

Kyli Wagner, Director, Defend Our Future:

“In the face of the climate crisis and deepening social and economic disparities, young people are seeking solutions that provide new economic opportunities while protecting our planet and advancing environmental justice. Defend Our Future thanks Reps. Neguse, Chu, Ocasio-Cortez, Kaptur, Rush, Thompson, Barragan, Doggett and Waters as well as Senators Wyden, Coons, and Markey for working to create a Civilian Climate Corps that provides good paying jobs for young people, particularly young people of color, while empowering them to protect their communities for the worst impacts of a changing climate.”

Paul Sanford, National Director of Recreation Policy, The Wilderness Society:

“Standing up a Civilian Climate Corps will put people back to work, support local economies, and combat the climate crisis. Investing in the corps will help conserve America’s public lands and waters, address the maintenance backlog, increase resiliency against natural disasters, reduce carbon emissions and grow the clean energy economy. We commend Representative Neguse and the other members who signed this letter for working to ensure that the Civilian Climate Corps is a part of the upcoming budget reconciliation package.”

Clarence E. Anthony, CEO and Executive Director, National League of Cities:

“As cities, towns and villages continue to see the impacts of climate change every day in their communities, the time for federal action is long overdue. Creating a Civilian Climate Corps will not only support climate and resilience projects and programs in communities, but will also provide workforce development and training for residents who most need it through the proven service corps model. From flood protection to wildfire mitigation, addressing these critical community needs will strengthen community resilience to extreme weather events and create local jobs. Thank you, Congressman Neguse and House and Senate sponsors, for championing this issue and for your leadership to address the climate crisis.”

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Kaira Esgate, CEO, America's Service Commissions:

“National service has a long history in conservation, climate, and disaster resiliency work and an established network of 52 governor-appointed state service commissions and hundreds of local AmeriCorps programs have the experience to develop a successful modern-era Civilian Climate Corps (CCC). The CCC is an historic opportunity to leverage AmeriCorps to launch the next generation of climate stewards on a path to good-paying jobs while addressing critical issues in disproportionately impacted communities. We thank all the signers for their efforts and for recognizing the importance of national service and making it easier to serve in programs like AmeriCorps to address the environmental, health, and economic challenges of our time.”

Mary Ellen Sprenkel, President and CEO, The Corps Network:

“Our country is dealing with the impacts of climate change and a global pandemic. In response to these crises, President Biden called for the establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps reminiscent of the New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), but with a focus on equity and inclusion. Representatives Neguse, Chu, Ocasio-Cortez, Kaptur and Rush, and Senators Coons, Markey and Wyden, and many other Members of Congress are asking for the Civilian Climate Corps to be included in the upcoming budget reconciliation package as a solution to many of our nation's current challenges. The 137 members of The Corps Network stand ready to be the backbone of the infrastructure of the Civilian Climate Corps. I strongly urge Congress to fund and establish a new Civilian Climate Corps utilizing the existing network of Corps without delay.”

Jad Daley, CEO and President, American Forests:

“The original Civilian Conservation Corps was called Roosevelt's 'Tree Army' and planted 3 billion trees during the Great Depression. The climate crisis is dramatically increasing both wildfire risks and the frequency of the deadly, record-breaking heatwaves currently impacting communities across the country. A revitalized Civilian Climate Corps is a significant opportunity to provide needed investment in landscape-scale forest restoration, an expanding urban forest workforce, and Tree Equity in our cities. We look forward to working with Congress and the Administration to make a reimagined CCC a reality.”

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Sarah Murdock, Director of Climate Resilience and Water Policy, the Nature Conservancy:

“The Nature Conservancy strongly supports expanded funding to grow a Civilian Climate Corps that will train and launch careers for people interested in meaningful work to address climate and environmental challenges. As operators of the GulfCorps program, we have trained over 300 young adults in skills leading to full-time jobs in conservation and restoration work in states along the Gulf of Mexico. The work has delivered important environmental, economic and social benefits such as better water quality, habitat improvements and restoration of public parklands. There is tremendous demand for this type of workforce throughout the country, and we welcome increased investment to begin to fill this demand.”

Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Senior Legislative Representative, Earthjustice:

“The Civilian Corps exemplifies how solutions that address the climate and biodiversity crises can create jobs and opportunity while being guided by principles of equality. We look forward to the many benefits for our country and our communities the corps will provide, working on projects guided by community input, that are ecologically sound.”

Jamaal Raad, Executive Director, Evergreen Action:

“There’s never been more momentum to establish a bold Civilian Climate Corps. And thanks to Rep. Joe Neguse’s leadership, members of Congress are aligning behind the most equitable and just version possible. The CCC is an exciting, overwhelmingly popular opportunity to put countless Americans to work on climate solutions in their own communities. Rep. Neguse’s vision for a climate corps also ensures that people from all backgrounds have access to the Climate Corps’ training and benefits that can lead to lifelong careers in the clean energy economy. Leaders from across the country are fired up and ready to make sure the boldest possible Climate Corps makes it to the finish line in infrastructure negotiations.”